

**PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS**

**Hearing Date:** 5-11-04

**Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations:** Period of Clinical Service for Foreign Educated  
Physical Therapists

**Sections Affected:** (1) 1398.26 amended (2) 1398.26.5 adopt

**PROBLEM ADDRESSED:** Pursuant to section 2653 of the Business and Professions Code (B & P), the foreign educated physical therapist (FEPT) applicant is required to complete a period of clinical service in the United States for introduction to the delivery of healthcare in the United States. The clinical site where the FEPT would be completing the period of clinical service is required to request approval from the Physical Therapy Board of California (Board) to supervise the FEPT. Once approved the clinical site supervises the FEPT applicant and certifies the competence of the applicant in a report to the Board.

The existing regulation does not specify what information needs to be submitted to demonstrate the competency of the applicant nor does it specify in what format the information must be submitted.

Further, the existing regulation does not clearly define the reasons waivers, as defined by B & P Code section 2653, of any portions of the nine (9) months period of clinical service may be granted by the Board.

**SPECIFIC PURPOSE:** Provide clarification to both the FEPT and the clinical site supervising the FEPT on what constitutes competency in the practice of physical therapy, how to submit certification of competency and in what format. In addition, the proposed regulatory changes would clarify the reasons for waivers of the period of clinical service.

**FACTUAL BASIS:** This section defines the requirements for application for licensure by foreign educated physical therapist graduates.

**UNDERLYING DATA:** The underlying data used to define competency in the practice of physical therapy can be found in the *Physical Therapist Clinical Performance Instrument* issued by the American Physical Therapy in December of 1997. This document is included in this submittal and is available from the American Physical Therapy Association, Division of Education, 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22134-1488.

**SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT:** These regulations will not have a significant adverse economic impact on businesses.

**SPECIFIC TECHNOLOGIES OR EQUIPMENT:** Specific technologies used are found in two documents issued by the American Physical Therapy Association; (1) the *Physical Therapist Clinical Performance Instrument* issued in December of 1997, and (2) *Clinical Site Information Form (CSIF)* revised and issued on November 1, 1999. Both documents are included in the submittal and available from the American Physical Therapy Association at the address shown in the Underlying Data.

**CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES:** No alternative, which were considered, would either be more effective than or equally less burdensome than the proposed regulations.